



25 June 2007

Traffic Accidents Result in Injury to Children

1. Within the last week, USFK personnel have been involved in two traffic accidents that resulted in injury to young Korean children. In one case, the vehicle operator reportedly failed to stop at a traffic signal and hit a child, knocking him and two others to the ground. In the second case, the Servicemember struck a child in a crosswalk. Fortunately, none of the children were seriously injured.

2. These incidents concern me greatly. I want leaders to review safe driving procedures with their personnel immediately before a more catastrophic event occurs. This must become a part of Under the Oak Tree Counseling. Whether a Servicemember is operating a privately owned vehicle or a military vehicle, we must operate them with extreme caution on the crowded roads in the Republic of Korea. Pedestrians can enter a roadway from anywhere -- Drive defensively, look for pedestrians and give them the right of way. Children can be very unpredictable.

3. In 2006, reports indicate that more than 6,000 pedestrians were killed on Korean roadways; nearly 300 of these were children. Reduce speed and be exceptionally vigilant when pedestrians are present.

- [USFK Pam 385-2](#) and [USFK Pam 385-3](#) provide information on driving safety.

4. Commanders and leaders must ensure that everyone is aware of and complies with the SOFA and Korean traffic laws. We all need to be mindful that our conduct and judgment while operating motor vehicles can have a negative strategic impact on our relationship with our Korean Ally. Whether a Servicemember, Civilian Employee, or Family Member, each of us must take every precaution to act responsibly as Ambassadors for America in the Republic of Korea.

5. We go together!

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commander

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!

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